

REMARKS

By this Amendment, claims 1-12 are pending.

The Examiner objected to the Abstract and the claims for typographical errors which have been corrected.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-5 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,430,761 (Brandorff et al). Claim 5 recites that the first and second bases are originally connected to the support frame. The bases 22, 27 of Brandorff are hingedly connected. Claim 4, reciting that the bases are hingedly connected to the support, was rejected as being anticipated by Brandorff et al.

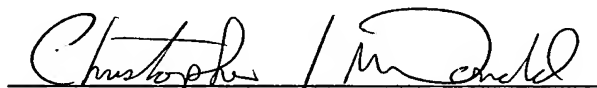
Claim 1 has been amended to state that the support surfaces support substantially planar. Brandorff discloses a portable patient lift having a sling 100 suspended from arms 74 extending from the support frame. The lift is used to assist patients in and out of a wheel chair as seen in Figure 1C. A substantially planar support is not shown nor suggested by Brandorff et al. In addition, it would not be obvious to modify Brandorff et al with a planar support as it would no longer perform the function of assisting patients from a wheelchair. In addition, new claim 12 states that the patient's support has a first position when the bases are in their first position and a second position when the bases are in their second position, the second position being lower than the first position.

The Examiner rejected claims 9-11 as obvious over U.S. Patent 4,939,801 (Schaal et al) in view of U.S. Patent 6,691,345 (Nanhara). The Examiner stated that Schaal et al disclose a bases support attached to a frame and relied upon Nanhara for disclosing L-shaped arms connected to a railing, the L-shaped arms connected to the bottom surface of the support surface and including a first and second section pivotally connected together. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Nanhara discloses railings 112 which are connected to the side surface of a support. The railings move in a vertical plane and could not be attached to the bottom surface of the support and extend to a position above the support as seen in Figure 1. In addition, the two sections of the L-shaped arm 110, 111 are not hingedly attached to one another. They are a single rigid piece and at their intersection are pivotally connected to one section 114 of the railing. No relative movement between the two sections of the L-shaped arm is possible.

The claims are allowable over the prior art and favorable action is eagerly and earnestly solicited. If any issues remain, and the Examiner believes a telephone conversation would resolve such issues, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned attorney. If any fees are due and owing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account 08-2455.

Respectfully submitted,



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